

SENATE BILL 496
EMERGENCY BILL

Unofficial Copy
J1

2004 Regular Session
4r1710

By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health - Compulsive Gambling Treatment Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Compulsive Gambling Treatment Program in the
4 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; stating certain findings of the
5 General Assembly; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the
6 Program to be targeted towards a certain population; requiring the Department
7 to directly allocate a certain amount on a one-time basis to the Compulsive
8 Gambling Center, Inc.; requiring the Compulsive Gambling Center, Inc., to
9 establish and develop certain components of the Program; requiring the
10 Compulsive Gambling Center, Inc., to provide certain financial documents and
11 Program outcome reports to the Department; defining certain terms; declaring
12 the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor include a certain
13 appropriation in the State budget for a certain fiscal year to implement the
14 Program; requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation in the State
15 budget for a certain fiscal year under certain circumstances; making this Act an
16 emergency measure; and generally relating to the Compulsive Gambling
17 Treatment Program.

18 BY adding to
19 Article - Health - General
20 Section 13-2101 through 13-2105, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
21 "Subtitle 21. Compulsive Gambling Treatment Program"
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

SUBTITLE 21. COMPULSIVE GAMBLING TREATMENT PROGRAM.

13-2101.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) (1) "COMPULSIVE GAMBLER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CHRONICALLY OR PROGRESSIVELY PREOCCUPIED WITH GAMBLING AND THE URGE TO GAMBLE.

(2) "COMPULSIVE GAMBLER" INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE GAMBLING BEHAVIOR:

(I) THREATENS THE INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL WELFARE;

(II) DISRUPTS THE INDIVIDUAL'S FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS;

(III) DAMAGES THE INDIVIDUAL'S FINANCIAL SITUATION OR VOCATIONAL PURSUITS; OR

(IV) CAUSES THE INDIVIDUAL TO ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

(C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE COMPULSIVE GAMBLING TREATMENT PROGRAM.

13-2102.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) COMPULSIVE GAMBLING IS A SERIOUS SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM;

(2) THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF GAMBLING INCREASES THE RISK OF BECOMING A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER;

(3) THE SPREAD OF GAMBLING, ESPECIALLY SLOTS GAMBLING, DURING THE PAST DECADE IN THIS STATE AND NEARBY STATES HAS LED TO A STEADY INCREASE IN PROBLEM AND COMPULSIVE GAMBLING, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE ELDERLY; AND

(4) THE STATE HAS EXTENSIVE LEGALIZED GAMBLING AND HAS MADE EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT ADDITIONAL FORMS AND SITES OF LARGE GAMBLING VENUES.

(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEEKS TO MEET THE STATE'S OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE A PROGRAM OF INITIAL ASSISTANCE AND TREATMENT FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

1 13-2103.

2 THERE IS A COMPULSIVE GAMBLING TREATMENT PROGRAM IN THE
3 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INITIAL ASSISTANCE AND
4 TREATMENT FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

5 13-2104.

6 (A) TO AVOID A DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, THE
7 DEPARTMENT SHALL DIRECTLY ALLOCATE \$200,000 ON A ONE-TIME BASIS, TO THE
8 COMPULSIVE GAMBLING CENTER, INC., LOCATED IN BALTIMORE CITY.

9 (B) UPON RECEIPT OF THE FUNDS, THE COMPULSIVE GAMBLING CENTER,
10 INC., SHALL PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL AND OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES TO
11 COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

12 (C) THE COMPULSIVE GAMBLING CENTER, INC., SHALL WORK WITH THE
13 DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP ANY OTHER NECESSARY COMPONENTS OF THE
14 PROGRAM.

15 13-2105.

16 THE COMPULSIVE GAMBLING CENTER, INC., SHALL SUBMIT FINANCIAL
17 RECORDS AND PROGRAM OUTCOME REPORTS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
19 General Assembly that the Governor shall include in a supplemental budget for fiscal
20 year 2005 an appropriation in an amount sufficient to fund the provisions of §
21 13-2104 of the Health - General Article, as enacted by this Act, for the
22 implementation of the Compulsive Gambling Treatment Program in the State. If such
23 an appropriation is not included in a supplemental budget for fiscal year 2005, the
24 Governor shall include an appropriation for the implementation of the Program in the
25 State budget for fiscal year 2006.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
27 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
28 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
29 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly and, shall take effect from
30 the date it is enacted.